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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,730	01/16/2004	Gary W. Ferguson	2089/40840/2	6376
279	7590	06/23/2006	EXAMINER	
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI, BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD. 105 WEST ADAMS STREET SUITE 3600 CHICAGO, IL 60603			RUTLAND WALLIS, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,730

Applicant(s)

FERGUSON, GARY W.

Examiner

Michael Rutland-Wallis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15, 34-39 and 52-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-39 and 52-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/16/04 08/26/04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of group II in the reply filed on 05/30/2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 34-37 and 52-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lam (U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,559) in view of Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,544)

With respect to claim 34 Lee teaches a power distribution apparatus (Fig. 2 and 3 for example) for supplying power to at least one peripheral device (i.e. external modem line 1 column 3) comprising a power conditioner (while not shown one of ordinary skill in the art would understand such a component to be present within item 40 the supply) coupled to an AC power supply (wall socket) for converting said AC power supply to a DC power supply and for regulating said DC power supply to a plurality of DC voltages

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(at least 12v and 5v connections); a power supply mating device (see Fig. 3 and Fig. 4) connector comprising a plurality of DC power receptacles (see connections exiting item 40 via conductors item 21) coupled to said DC power supply each one of said plurality of DC power receptacles being in circuit with a one of said plurality of DC voltages and Lee teaches the use of a power cable (item 20 and 21). Lee teaches also teaches a device of claim 1 and further teaches detailed cable end connection, Lee teaches in figure 4 a first cable end (item 12) comprising a plurality of receptacles (item 12a and 12b), each one of said plurality of first end receptacles in circuit with a one of a plurality of pairs of conducting wires (items 30 and 31) said first cable end adapted to couple to said power supply mating device connector; and a second cable end (item 23) comprising a plurality of second end receptacles (items 23a-d), each of said plurality of second end receptacles couple to a one of said plurality of pairs of conducting wires, said second cable end adapted to couple to a peripheral device mating device connector (item 24), wherein said peripheral device mating device connector selectively couples said plurality of second end receptacles to the peripheral device. While it is the position Lee alone renders obvious all of the claimed limitations of claim 34, if it is held the wall outlet plug and voltage conditioner are not fairly suggested by Lee, Lam also teaches a similar system to that of the claimed device. Lam teaches a power distribution apparatus (Fig. 1 for example) for supplying power to at least one peripheral device (item 25 for example) comprising a power conditioner (voltage regulator not shown in drawing see column 2) coupled to an AC power supply (wall socket see column 2 line 25) for converting said AC power supply to a DC power supply and for regulating said

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DC power supply to a plurality of DC voltages; a power supply mating device (see Fig. 2 or Fig. 6) connector comprising a plurality of DC power receptacles (at least 12v and 5v connections item 40) coupled to said DC power supply each one of said plurality of DC power receptacles being in circuit with a one of said plurality of DC voltages and Lam teaches the use of a power cable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lee to include the voltage conditioner and/or AC supply to provide a regulated DC voltage output.

With respect to claim 35 Lee teaches the DC voltages of the device are different for each load connected, while the types of polarity are disclosed by Lee It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a first and second polarity as required by the demands of the load.

With respect to claim 36 and 37 Lee teaches a connector alignment of male connectors item 23 and female connectors item 24 are configured to align to connect together, while not disclosed as an alignment pin it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the use of an alignment pin in order to aid in proper mating of the connectors.

With respect to claim 52 Lam teaches an AC power receptacle (items 84 or 85) coupled to said AC power supply.

With respect to claim 53 Lee as modified by Lam teach the connection of a typical wall outlet. Applicant does not describe or define an interruptible power supply. The power from the wall outlet may be unplugged or switched off it may therefore be seen and understood as an interruptible power supply.

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With respect to claim 54 Lee as modified by Lam teach AC power supply is supplied from an AC supply typically a wall outlet. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the source of the AC power input into the power distribution may be from any AC source of sufficient voltage such as a computer in order to provide a clean power signal.

Claims 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lam (U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,559) in view of Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,544) as applied to claim 34 above, and further in view of Zhang (U.S. Pat. No. 6,418,037)

With respect to claim 38 Lee teaches said AC power supply (i.e. 110 VAC from wall outlet) is at a first voltage but does not teach the voltage conditioner produces a AC power at a second voltage and said apparatus further comprises at least one lower-voltage AC power receptacle said power conditioner. Zhang teaches a power distribution system and a power conditioner further produces AC power at a second voltage and said apparatus further comprises at least one lower-voltage AC power receptacle said power conditioner. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lee as modified by Lam to further include the use of a power conditioner which outputs a second AC voltage in order to provide a low voltage AC power to AC loads.

With respect to claim 39 Zhang teaches IC which are mated and to regulated components or microprocessors (column 2) Lee teaches the power cable for use with DC It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to use a second power cable for the coupling a second AC voltage in addition to the first power cable in order to power loads which require AC power.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,780,048), Hogarth (U.S. Pat. No. 5,117,112), Kocieki (U.S. Pat. No. 6,198,642), Odisho (U.S. Pat. No. 5,758,100) and Williams (U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,750) teaches systems are relevant to claim 34 of applicant's invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MRW



**ANATOLY VORTMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**